



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

April 2022

Volume 69, Number 3

Heard on the Historical Trail



Three seats on the WSHS Executive Committee will be up in September. Interested in running? Email linda@wyshs.org for details.

Please send your program dates or other news in by the 15th of each month. For the May issue items need to be sent asap.

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2022 Trek hosted by the **Fremont County Historical Society** the weekend of June 10th. Accommodations are listed on page five, and the registration form is online at www.wyshs.org, or from linda@wyshs.org.

Plan now to attend the annual **Natrona County Historical Society** and OCTA Annual Meeting in Casper on April 28th. WSHS member **Randy Hein** will speak on Casper's historic architecture. For details call **Becky Steensland** at 307-259-3350.

68th Annual Trek— Historic Fremont County

Fremont County was founded in 1884 by John C. Fremont, a general, explorer and politician. Nicknamed "The Pathfinder," Fremont's contributions to opening up the American West has often caused historians to study the controversy that surrounds him.

Fremont County is home to many historic sites, and the Wind River Indian Reservation, home of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes of Native Americans.

The trek, sponsored by the Fremont County Historical Society, will take us (by bus) to the towns of Lander, Dubois, and South Pass City. There will be many opportunities along the way to learn about the second largest county in the state of Wyoming. The Museum of the American West in Lander includes a 10-building pioneer village, and exhibits about the area's history. That, along with the Fremont County Pioneer Museum, which focuses on exhibits featuring the history of the Lander Valley, Fremont County and western Wyoming, will give you a first-hand look at the area's history. In Dubois we will enjoy a tour of the new National Museum of Military

Vehicles that celebrated its grand opening in May. Since then it has become a major tourist destination.

South Pass City State Historic Site will give registrants an opportunity to learn about the gold mining era that began in 1867. The state's largest historic site, South Pass City features more than 20 historic structures, many period room exhibits and a visitors' center. The site is well maintained and interpreted. South Pass City also played a role in the women's suffrage movement when William Bright introduced a bill during the 1869 Territorial Legislative session that would allow women the right to vote and hold political office.

Early registration ends on April 30th so get those in now. A list of accommodations can be found on page five of this newsletter. Make your reservations now.



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**From the
President. . .**

As I write this, snow is falling, and temperatures are diving after much of Wyoming was teased with spring-like weather last week. But I wouldn't expect anything else from Wyoming this time of year. “Variety, thy name is Wyoming,” to poorly misquote Shakespeare. I also find my mind turning frequently to what is happening in Ukraine. I admit to being an American who has largely taken my freedoms for granted. The situation there recalls, for me, that national pride can lay sleeping in individuals until awakened by forces that seek to quash it. Part of that pride comes from a rich history of place. The people of Ukraine can trace their history from hunter-gatherer cultures to a golden age in the 11th century through two 20th century world wars to independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. We in the United States have our own rich history, as does our own state of Wyoming. That history may not always be pretty, but our state's past holds such fascination that, in 1953, we formed an organization around it, the Wyoming State Historical Society.

A few months ago, I was asked, “Why join the Wyoming State Historical Society?” It got me to thinking about the benefits of membership—it's a question that's especially relevant today as so many of our chapters struggle to attract new or retain existing members. Of course, there is the Society's monthly newsletter, *Wyoming History News*, which you are reading right now. *History News* is how we let each other know what's happening in big, wonderful Wyoming, to quote the mud flap. Then there's our flagship publication *Annals of Wyoming*,

in which authors showcase interesting elements of the state's historical past. Those are certainly two great advantages to membership. However, to me, one of the greatest benefits is “society”—our interactions with each other as we explore a passion we share about our state's past. We've had to take chapter presentations online more and more as we still deal with the pandemic, but I find the discussions just as engaging. In person or virtual, we learn from each other.

I recently attended an interesting talk by Albany County Chapter President **Jessica Flock** about the Laramie Mural Project, in which local artists create unique large-scale murals on downtown Laramie buildings that reflect the city's cultural assets. I thought I knew quite a bit about the project, until I heard Jessica's talk. I learned of murals I didn't even know existed. This past summer my mother and sister visited Laramie. I took them on a tour to view as many of the murals as we could find. They told me later it was a highlight of their visit. So, when I learned of Jessica's upcoming virtual presentation, I invited my mom in Florida and sister in California to join in and we all thoroughly enjoyed the history behind the murals.

Sense of place is not just for locals, as many of you know who are reading *History News* outside Wyoming's borders. With this in mind, I encourage chapters to not only share news of upcoming presentations with their own chapter, but email Linda Fabian well in advance so she can announce it to the entire membership. Encourage the public to attend too through social media and community announcements. Let prospective members in your town know we are a society worth joining. We're proud of our Wyoming roots and associations, and we want to engage with as many people as we can who share a passion about our state's history.

Leslie

(Continued from page 1)

WSHS member and Wyoming State Archivist, **Sara Davis**, announces that the Archives has been awarded a one-year grant from the Natl. Historical Publications & Records Commission to create a traveling archivist program. This joint project with the American Heritage Center and SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board) will allow for the hiring of an archivist to create a directory of smaller archival institutions in Wyoming, and facilitate networking between archives and manuscript custodians in the State. It is anticipated that the position will be hired by July 1. For more details contact Sara by phone at 307-777-8691, or sara.davis@wyo.gov.

WSHS member **Hoofprints of the Past Museum** in Kaycee recently hosted a program by WSHS member **Tom Rea** who shared stories about the excavation and celebrity of Andrew Carnegie's Dinosaur. You can catch his program on April 19th when he presents at the **Albany County Historical Society**. Contact wyoachs@gmail.com for details.

WSHS member **Korina Ike**, director of the Hulett Museum and Art Gallery, is interested in creating a digital community on Slack where small museums can connect in real-time, pose questions about the museum/history field, and share information and resources. If you have any questions or want to participate, call Korina at 307-467-5292 or hulettmuseum@rtconnect.net.

Wyoming History Day is fast approaching, and needs judges. They are reaching out to Veteran Judges first to see if any are interested in judging the **State Compe-**

titition once again. This year's contest will be fully in-person (always with the possibility of needing to shift to a virtual format due to COVID-19 restrictions), so if you can make it to the contest on **April 25th**, between 8am and 2pm, with the awards ceremony to take place at 3:30pm in Laramie please email wyoaminghistoryday@gmail.com.

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums will be held the weekend of April 27th in Colorado Springs. This year's theme will be "Reflection and Reinvention." For details follow CWAM on Facebook or visit www.cwam.org.

On April 21st the **Star Valley Historical Society** will present a program about the introduction of swans into the area. Contact Todd Bateman for details at tbateman205@gmail.com.

The digitization of *Annals of Wyoming* is to resume thanks to Chad Hutchens, head of Digital Collections at the **University of Wyoming Libraries**, and his team. Issues dating from 2006 through 2017 will be publicly accessible later this fall. Currently, digitized copies of *Annals* up to 2005 can be viewed at www.wyshs.org. Because receiving the prestigious journal is a benefit of WSHS membership the Executive Committee made the decision to have a rolling five-year embargo on digitization.

The **Wyoming Humanities Council** has awarded the Society with an Americans Rescue Plan grant allowing us to upgrade both of our websites, Wyoming State Historical Society and WyoHistory.org. Special thanks to our web-

master, **Steve Foster**, and **Tom Rea**, chair of the Society's website committee for their hard work on this project. Past president **Rick Ewig** will serve as historical consultant to make sure all the links are accurate. The upgrades are expected to be completed in the fall of 2022.

The annual Heart Mountain Wyoming Pilgrimage is scheduled July 29 and 30th. Special guests include WSHS member **Senator Alan Simpson (Ret.)**, Secretary Norm Mineta (Ret), and WSHS member **Sam Mihara** who added that he is "aged but not retired!" In addition, the event will feature the groundbreaking for the new Mineta-Simpson Institute. Sam was 9 years old when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered WWII. Shortly after, Sam and his family were forced from their San Francisco home and sent to Heart Mountain. Sam speaks all over the United States about his experiences. His schedule is at www.sammihara.com. Email him at smihara12345@gmail.com. He recently spoke to his 80,000th student and is booked throughout the year, and a featured guest speaker at the National Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. Listening to him is a life-changing experience.

May is Wyoming Historical Preservation Month. Contact Alliance for Historic Wyoming for details call 307-333-3508.

UW's **American Heritage Center** is creating a friends list to let you know about all the exciting happenings! Contact Matt Troyanek at troyanek@uwyo.edu if you would like to receive email announcements. The AHC is a strong partner of the Society.

Wyoming History Calendar

April 14-Cheyenne Horace Lovett, Failed at Robbing Trains by Rick Ewig, WyoState Museum. Call 307-777-7022.

April 19-Laramie. The ACHS will host Tom Rea. wyoachs@gmail.com for details.

April 21-Star Valley. Program about the introduction of swans into the area. Email tbateman205@gmail.com.

April 25- Laramie Wyoming History Day state competition. Email thopkin9@uwyo.edu for details.

April 27-Colorado Springs Annual Meeting of the Colorado/Wyoming Association of Museums.

April 28-Casper Natrona County Historical Society annual banquet. Call 307-259-3350 for details.

April 30—Deadline to submit nominations for awards.

May 1-30-Laramie Yellowstone National Park Poster Exhibit, UW Coe Library.

May 1-Douglas. Tours of Pioneer Cemetery and Oregon Trail Ruts. Sponsored by Converse County Histori-

cal Society. heidiho2202@yahoo.com for details.

May 7-Casper. Mother's Day Tea, Historic Bishop Home. Call 307-237-2443 for details.

June 10-Fremont County Annual Historical Society Trek. Details in this newsletter or at www.wyshs.org.

June 24-25—Douglas Fort Fetterman Days. For details contact heidiho2202@yahoo.com.

July 29-30-Heart Mountain. Pilgrimage will feature groundbreaking for the new Mineta-Simpson Institute.

For registration see www.heartmountain.org.

Future Trek Dates:

- 2023 Star Valley Historical Society
- 2024 How about your chapter?

Future Annual Meeting Dates:

- 2022 South Lincoln County Historical Society (Kemmerer), September 9-11.
- 2023—Park County Historical Society, Cody.

Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and others. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and should reach the WHN editor by the 15th. Send items to linda@wyshs.org

Awards 2022—Nominate Now!

The Society seeks nominations of individuals and organizations that have done outstanding work in preserving and interpreting Wyoming history in 2021. With a deadline of April 30, 2022, it is not too early for county chapters, individuals and Society members to think about submitting nominations.

The awards are divided into seven main category groups and include Publication Awards, Audio and/or Video Documentary Awards, Fine Arts Award, Youth Awards, Special Awards (such as Outstanding Wyoming Teacher of the Year), Memorial Awards, and Preservation Awards. Possible nominees include young historians, maybe someone who has restored old photographs or documents, written books significant to Wyoming history, maybe someone who restored a historic wagon, social media and many more. Jane Gebhart, chair of the Society's awards program, said "This is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of individ-

uals or organizations in promoting Wyoming's rich legacy." She added, "The best way to get started is to review the 2022 Awards Manual and think about those people or organizations in your community that might qualify and deserve recognition."

For specific information about each category please review the Awards Manual at www.wyshs.org or e-mail linda@wyshs.org to receive a hard copy. Most nominations can be received by the committee hard copy, but the exception is that the two preservation awards must be submitted electronically. Any person or organization that has worked to preserve Wyoming's legacy can be nominated, they do not have to be members. Only members and/or chapters can make the nomination.

The Awards Ceremony will be held in Kemmerer this September, and will be hosted by the **South Lincoln County Historical Society**. We'll hope to see you then.

WSHS Creates Speakers List

COVID created novel opportunities for the Society and chapters to create new and exciting ways to learn about Wyoming’s unique history. Many chapters have successfully hosted and/or participated in online programming and we plan to continue providing more details about how to make that possible. Do you have a presentation to provide to your fellow Society members? If so, please consider sending us a description of what you would like to present via Zoom or another online format.

So far, we have almost a dozen members who have submitted program topics ranging from women’s history to photography to architectural history to transportation history to art to early organizations and more. We would love to add your program to the list. Please contact Society headquarters at linda@wyshs.org for more details about how you can participate. We plan to add the continually updated Speakers List to the website by this fall. In the meantime the information can be provided to chapters upon request.



2022 TREK ACCOMMODATIONS—BOOK NOW FOR THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 10TH

Rodeway Inn & Suites
Pronghorn Lodge
50 Rooms Blocked until 05/10/2022
\$140.61 per night
150 E Main ST
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-3940

Shoshone Rose Casino & Hotel
20 Rooms Blocked until 05/10/2022
\$132 per night
5690 HWY 287
Lander, WY 82520
307-206-7000

Travel Lodge
The Inn at Lander
260 Grand View
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-2847

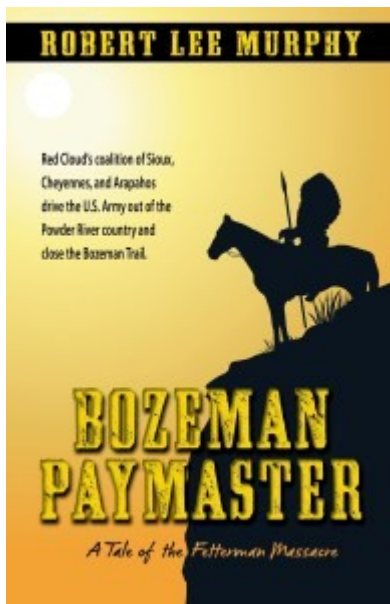
Holiday Lodge
Motel and RV Site
\$95 per night motel
210 McFarlane DR
Lander, WY 82520
307-335-5166

Holiday Inn Express
1002 11th ST
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-4005

Sleeping Bear RV Park
715 E Main ST
Lander, WY 82520
307-332-5159

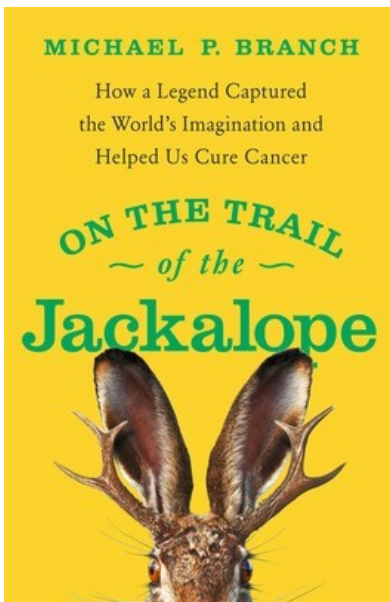
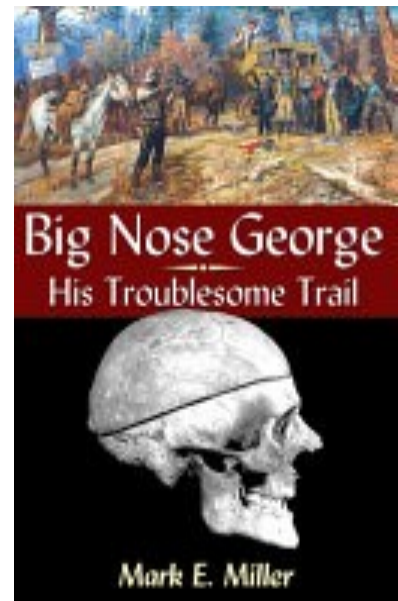
Twin Pines RV Park
7345 State Highway 789
Lander, WY 82520
800-986-4008

On The Bookshelf...



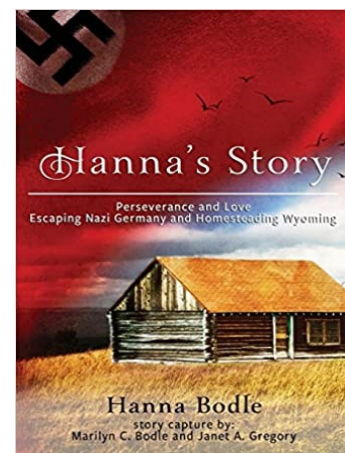
This book by WSHS member **Robert Murphy**, an award winning author, will be released in late June, 2022. *Bozeman Paymaster* is the story of the bone-chilling day in December 1866 when Captain William Fetterman led eighty men into the army's worst defeat. Check your local bookstore for availability, or email Robert at robertmurphy12@cox.net.

Published by WSHS member, **High Plains Press**, this book by WSHS member **Dr. Mark Miller** tells the true tale of Big Nose George Parrott who was involved in the murder of two lawmen in Carbon County, Wyoming and died in a lynching in 1881. Then begins the bizarre story of his autopsy and its aftermath. Mark is an Adjunct Professor for the University of Wyoming's Dept. of Anthropology, and retired as Wyoming State Archaeologist in 2014, a position he held for more than 30 years. Ask for this book at your local booksellers or from www.highplainspress.com, (1-800-553-7819).



This mysterious creature is discussed more than it ever has been in the new book *On the Trail of the Jackalope* by WSHS member **Michael Branch**. Michael discusses his fascination with various jackalope tall tales and the roots of such hoaxes. He ends with the amazing true story of the discovery of the role of a virus in actual "horned rabbits," and how this led to the creation of the vaccine for human papillomavirus. Search it out at your local bookseller or contact the publisher, Pegasus Books, by emailing jenny@pegasusbooks.us. For a signed copy contact Michael at mbranch@unr.edu.

WSHS member **Janet Gregory's** award winning book has been translated into German so Hanna could share her story with her relatives. Janet tells us that the book has over 350 reviews and has been on Amazon's best seller list for women's biographies for the last five months! Here's a link to the Women's Biography best seller list. Scroll down to find "Hannas Geschichte" the title in German. Look for a different cover too, it has a blue band with the title and a maroon band on the bottom with the author information. <https://www.amazon.de/gp/bestsellers/digital-text/610664031>



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

At Large

Museum At The Bighorns, Sheridan
Eryn Branch, Reno, NV
John Reckling, Riverton
Mike and Donna Griffin, Crawford, NE
Lindy Burgess, Wyarno

Albany County Historical Society

Cheri and Bill Bellamy, Laramie

Converse County Historical Society

Pam Wright, Douglas

Crook County Historical Society

David Kalb, Sundance

Fort Bridger Historical Association

Christine Aimone, Fort Bridger

Johnson County Historical Society

Shane and Linda Wilson, Buffalo
Lois Petersen and Frank Pratt, Buffalo

Lincoln County Historical Society

Eileen Jackson, Kemmerer

Platte County Historical Society

Richard Johnson, Wheatland
John Harris, Wheatland
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Weston County Historical Society

Lucas Keeler, Newcastle

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Nancy Weidel, Laramie
Bernice Groves, Wright
Leslie and Robert Waggener, Laramie
John Andrikopoulos, Bozeman, MT
Tony Adams, Cheyenne
in memory of John Cornelison

Wyoming History Day

Don and Jan Hodgson, Torrington

WyoHistory.org

Phil Roberts, Laramie
Marcia Britton, Laramie

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to all our members who so generously give to the fundraising efforts of the Wyoming Historical Foundation. Also to the Executive Committee members and the Historical Foundation board of directors who volunteer hours of service to the mission of the Society. If you are interested in serving on either of these boards please contact headquarters, linda@wyshs.org.



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***Get your Trek Registration form online at
www.wyshs.org or email linda@wyshs.org.
Deadline to register early is April 30th.***

Address Service Requested

In Memory...

WSHS/Crook County Historical Society member **Robert Walkinshaw** (Ol' Bob) died in Sundance on February 9th at the age of 98. After graduating from Wheatland High School in 1941 he pursued studies at the University of Wyoming. He could not resist his country's call to arms, and enlisted in the US Army Air Corps at Fort Warren. He completed military flying schools and was commissioned as a Second Lt. in June 1944 at Ellington Field. Bob flew C46 drop missions and trained Chinese paratroopers. He was an avid hunter, outdoorsman, cattle rancher and aviator. He and his wife, Janet, attended most of the 14th USAF Association "Flying Tigers" Annual Conventions and other events, especially those at Arlington National Cemetery. It is noted that his Squadron parties were by far the largest at each convention as he kept the organization together by writing Squadron Newsletters, his principal retirement hobby.

